

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A universal pocket for attaching a tooth to a cutter wheel of a tree stump removal machine, the pocket defining:
  - opposing wheel and exterior faces;
  - opposing planar leading and trailing edges;
  - a tooth receiving slot linearly formed in the wheel face and extending between the planar leading and trailing edges;
  - a counter sunk bore extending between the exterior face and the wheel face, the counter sunk bore having an enlarged diameter adjacent to the exterior face; and
  - a threaded bore extending between the exterior face and the wheel face, each bore located on either side of the tooth receiving slot and equidistant between the planar leading and trailing edges;wherein the pocket is symmetric with respect to a line bisecting the bores.
2. The pocket of claim 1, wherein the planar leading and trailing edges are substantially parallel to one another.
3. The pocket of claim 1, wherein the tooth receiving slot is located equidistant between a central axis of the counter sunk bore and a central axis of the threaded bore.
4. The pocket of claim 1, wherein the tooth receiving slot defines a first slot side, a second slot side and a slot base, the slot sides each forming an angle with the slot base.
5. The pocket of claim 4, wherein the angle is approximately 90 degrees.

6. The pocket of claim 4, wherein the first slot side is a mirror image of the second slot side.

7. The pocket of claim 1, wherein the pocket further defines opposing first and second sides extending between the leading and trailing edges, and further wherein each of the first and second sides are curved.

8. A tool assembly attachable to a cutter wheel of a tree stump removal machine, the tool assembly comprising:

- a first tooth including a cutting head and a shank depending from the head;
- and

- a first pocket defining:

  - opposing wheel and exterior faces;

  - opposing planar leading and trailing edges;

  - a tooth receiving slot linearly formed in the wheel face and extending between the planar leading and trailing edges, the tooth receiving slot adapted to receive the shank of the first tooth;

  - a counter sunk bore extending between the exterior face and the wheel face, the counter sunk bore having an enlarged diameter adjacent to the exterior face; and

  - a threaded bore extending between the exterior face and the wheel face, each bore located on either side of the tooth receiving slot and equidistant between the planar leading and trailing edges;

- wherein the first pocket is symmetric with respect to a line bisecting the bores.

9. The tool assembly of claim 8, wherein the first pocket is adapted to selectively maintain the first tooth at a first position in which the cutting head is

adjacent the leading edge and a second position in which the cutting head is adjacent the trailing edge.

10. The tool assembly of claim 8, wherein the leading and trailing edges are substantially parallel to one another.

11. The tool assembly of claim 8, wherein the tooth receiving slot is located equidistant between a central axis of the counter sunk bore and a central axis of the threaded bore.

12. The tool assembly of claim 8, further comprising:  
a first bolt including a head and a threaded shaft; and  
a second bolt including a head and a threaded shaft;  
wherein upon final assembly, the head of the first bolt nests in the counter sunk bore and the threaded shaft is threadably maintained by the threaded bore.

13. The tool assembly of claim 8, wherein the cutter wheel includes a wheel periphery and a first face opposite a second face, the tool assembly further comprising:

- a second tooth including a cutting head and a shank depending from the head; and
- a second pocket defining:
  - opposing wheel and exterior faces;
  - opposing planar leading and trailing edges;
  - a tooth receiving slot linearly formed in the wheel face and extending between the planar leading and trailing edges, the tooth receiving slot adapted to receive the shank of the second tooth;

a counter sunk bore extending between the exterior face and the wheel face, the counter sunk bore having an enlarged diameter adjacent to the exterior face; and

a threaded bore extending between the exterior face and the wheel face, each bore located on either side of the tooth receiving slot and equidistant between the planar leading and trailing edges;

wherein the first pocket is assembled to the first face and the second pocket is assembled to the second face.

14. The tool assembly of claim 13, wherein each of the first and second pockets are adapted to be mounted to either of the first and second faces of the cutter wheel.

15. The tool assembly of claim 13, wherein the second pocket is further adapted to selectively receive the first tooth and the first pocket is further adapted to receive the second tooth.

16. The tool assembly of claim 13, wherein the second pocket is adapted to, upon assembly to the cutting wheel, provide a first position in which the leading edge of the second pocket is adjacent the wheel periphery and an alternative second position in which the trailing edge of the second pocket is adjacent the wheel periphery.

17. The tool assembly of claim 13, wherein the first and second pockets are identical.

18. The tool assembly of claim 13, further comprising:  
a first bolt having a head and a threaded shaft; and  
a second bolt having a head and a threaded shaft;

wherein upon final assembly, the head of the first bolt nests within the counter sunk bore of the first pocket and the threaded shaft is threadably engaged by the threaded bore of the second pocket.

19. A method of replacing teeth on a cutter wheel of a stump removal machine comprising:

providing a first pocket attached to a first face of the cutter wheel and a second pocket attached to a second face of the cutter wheel, each pocket defining a tooth receiving slot linearly formed in a wheel face and extending between a planar leading edge and a planar trailing edge, the planar leading edges positioned at a periphery of the cutter wheel;

removing the first pocket from the cutter wheel;

removing the first tooth from the first pocket;

rotating the first pocket by 180 degrees with respect to the tooth receiving slot of the first pocket;

replacing a new first tooth into the tooth receiving slot of the first pocket;  
and

attaching the first pocket to the first face of the cutter wheel and the second pocket to the second face of the cutter wheel to secure the new first tooth;

wherein after attachment, the planar trailing edge of the first pocket is adjacent the periphery of the cutter wheel.